

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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1. (Original) An electronic mail device capable of vocally reproducing an electronic mail text, comprising:

a communication unit for sending and receiving an electronic mail;

a memory for storing an electronic mail text and data including character setting information;

an input portion for inputting letters;

a display portion for displaying letters and images;

a voice synthesis control portion for controlling voice synthesis; and

a speaker;

wherein the mail device in a mode of vocally reproducing a received electronic mail text recognizes character setting information inserted as a text letter string in the mail text, refers to the character setting information and vocally reproduces the mail text by a specified character's voice synthesized based on the character setting information by the voice synthesis control unit.

2. (Currently Amended) An electronic mail device as defined in claim 1, wherein the character setting information is defined in detail by detailed character setting information including voice quality such as voice height, voice deepness, ~~vocally~~ vocal reading speed and so on.

3. (Original) An electronic mail device as defined in claim 2, wherein the mail device separates the detailed character setting information from the mail text, stores said information in a detailed character setting information storing portion and, in a stage of having detected a text letter string of character setting information in the mail text, reads the detailed character setting information from the storing portion and vocally reproduces the mail text based on the detailed character setting information.

4. (Currently Amended) An electronic mail device as defined in claim 2-~~or~~3, which is capable of transmitting and receiving an electronic mail including the character setting information and the detailed character setting information attached to the end or the beginning of the mail text in a predetermined format.

5. (Original) An electronic mail device as defined in claim 4, wherein, in case of having receiving the detailed character setting information attached to the mail text in the predetermined format, the mail device separates the detailed character setting information from the mail text, stores it in a detailed character setting information storing portion and, in a stage of having detected a text letter string of character setting information in the mail text, reads the detailed character setting information

from the storing portion and vocally reproduces the mail text based on the detailed character setting information.

6. (Original) An electronic mail device having a communication unit for sending and receiving an electronic mail and a voice synthesis control portion for controlling voice synthesis, wherein the mail device comprising:

B<sup>1</sup> inserting function for inserting character setting information, which specify a character at the time of vocally reproducing mail text, as a text letter string in the mail text; and

reading out function for connecting with a server sharing the character setting information as shared data, referring to the character setting information corresponding to the text letter string inserted in the mail text and reading out the electronic mail in the character voice synthesized in the voice synthesis control portion based on the referred character setting information.

7. (Currently Amended) An electronic mail device as defined in claim 6, wherein the character setting information is defined in detail by detailed character setting information including voice quality such as voice height, voice deepness, ~~vocally~~vocal reading speed and so on.

8. (Original) An electronic mail device as defined in claim 7, wherein the mail device separates the detailed character setting information from the mail text, stores said information in a detailed character setting information storing portion and, in a stage of having detected a text letter string of character setting information in the mail text, reads the detailed character setting information from the storing portion and vocally reproduces the mail text based on the detailed character setting information.


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9. (Currently Amended) An electronic mail device as defined in claim 7-~~or~~ 8, which is capable of transmitting and receiving an electronic mail including the character setting information and the detailed character setting information attached to the end or the beginning of the mail text in a predetermined format.

10. (Original) An electronic mail device as defined in claim 9, wherein, in case of having received the detailed character setting information attached to the mail text in the predetermined format, the mail device separates the detailed character setting information from the mail text, stores it in a detailed character setting information storing portion and, in a stage of having detected a text letter string of character setting information in the mail text, reads the detailed character setting information

from the storing portion and vocally reproduces the mail text based on the detailed character setting information.

11. (Original) An electronic mail system having:

an electronic mail device including a communication unit for sending and receiving an electronic mail and voice synthesis control portion for controlling voice synthesis; and

 a server for sharing the character setting information, which specify a character at the time of vocally reproducing the mail text, as shared data, wherein the mail device comprising:

inserting function for inserting character setting information, which specify a character at the time of vocally reproducing the mail text, as a text letter string in the mail text; and

reading out function for connecting with a server sharing the character setting information as shared data, referring to the character setting information corresponding to the text letter string inserted in the mail text and reading out the electronic mail in the character voice synthesized in the voice synthesis control portion based on the referred character setting information.

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